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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

February 28, 1952

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

It was not easy for me to decide to accept the Board's kind proffer of the directorship of the Graduate School, because it involved drastic modification of plans I had nurtured in preparation for my voluntary retirement as Research Administrator. Indeed, it involved breaking vows made to myself and to my family that I would, upon retirement, devote my time to other interests long cherished but impossible of realization while I was bound to fixed responsibilities.

Nevertheless, the prospect of constructive service to the Graduate School, the appeal of continued association with colleagues I hold in the highest regard, and the opportunity to "taper off" my career in the congenial and stimulating atmosphere of the Department, combined to influence me in favor of accepting the appointment.

In arriving at my decision, I became convinced that I would benefit in many ways from the experience of this unexpected shift in my plans. At the same time I became concerned about the extent to which this shift would benefit the Graduate School. This concern is still pronounced; but it is materially relieved by the belief that I shall enjoy the confidence and the cooperation of all whose interest in the welfare of the School I am happy to share. That confidence is fortified, moreover, by my confidence in the sincerity of purpose and the proficiency of my immediate administrative staff, of the faculty, the Committees, the Council, and the General Administrative Board. This mutual confidence, I feel certain, will be conducive to wholesome cooperation and an effective concert of effort in furthering the worthy purpose of the Graduate School.

Assistant Director

Dr. O. B. Conaway, Jr., formerly Assistant to the Director, has been appointed Assistant Director. He came to the Graduate School last November from Boston University where he was Active Director of the Bureau of Public Administration.

The General Administration Board is deeply gratified that it has been able to prevail on Dr. Cardon to accept appointment as Director of the Graduate School. In the Graduate School, Dr. Cardon will be continuing one of the outstanding careers of the public service. The Board is confident that under Dr. Cardon's leadership the Graduate School will continue to make most valuable contributions to the service and that the faculty, committee members, and friends of the Graduate School will give him their full cooperation.

*/S/ T. Roy Reid, Chairman
General Administration Board*

An appraisal of adult education

in rural areas, now nearing completion, will give an up-to-date picture of what is being done through formal training and group activities to help farm people better understand international affairs, strengthen the democratic process, and strengthen the nation's economy. Three members of the GS faculty -- T. Wilson Longmore, Carl Taylor, and Joseph Matthews -- helped compile the survey, which was made for the Fund for Adult Education of the Ford Foundation and the Association of Land-Grant Colleges. Dr. Longmore, who served as assistant director for the study, assembled information on work done by USDA agencies other than Extension and on the activities of civic, service, and professional organizations. Dr. Taylor compiled the information on cooperatives and the farm organizations. Dr. Matthews filled in the outline on the Agricultural Extension Service. The findings have been analyzed in group meetings by the 15 specialists aiding Charles P. Looris, director of the Social Research Service of Michigan State, who was commissioned to make the study. The material, to be compiled in a book, is expected to serve as a basis for future program planning in adult education in rural areas.

"You and Your Students."

is a 30 page exposition of how to teach college classes. It was prepared by a faculty committee at M. I. T., under the chairmanship of Professor Robley D. Evans. In lightning clear paragraphs illustrated by clever cartoons the booklet covers such matters as educational teamwork, objectives, techniques of teaching, testing, and grading. We plan to get a copy for the GS library, will be glad for you to look it over. It offers an excellent way to check your techniques.

Field employees,

who for many years have urged us to expand our program in correspondence courses, will be interested to know that 3 new courses are being mimeographed and will be ready for release within the next few weeks. Each is made up of 15 lessons, carries 2 hours credit. They are:

"Experimental Design"

"Hydraulics"

"Farm Forestry"

The first was prepared and will be taught by F. M. Wadley, consultant in biometrics and agriculture for the Office of Scientific Research and Development. A former member of the GS faculty, Dr. Wadley is well known in USDA, where he was with BEPQ for many years. He is a graduate of Kansas State College, holds a PH. D., from Minnesota.

The course in "Hydraulics" was prepared and will be taught by Clarence Bardsley of the Bureau of Standards. Dr. Bardsley has had wide experience both as a consulting engineer and a college professor. He has taught at Northwestern, Oklahoma A. & M., Michigan, and George Washington. He received his undergraduate training at the Missouri School of Mines, holds a Sc. D., from Michigan. As John Freeman scholar of the ASCE, he spent a year at German universities.

John F. Preston, who prepared and will teach the course in "Farm Forestry," was formerly chief of the forestry division of SCS. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan from which he holds the A. B. and M. S. F., degrees. He is the author of "Farm Woods Crops" published in 1949, and now, in his retirement, has just completed a second book, "Developing Farm Woodlands."

Deadlines

are March 5 for additions to the summer schedule, April 1 for changes in the 1952-53 Bulletin. If you know of a new field of activity that would make a good course for the summer term or if you wish to write a restatement of your course in the light of this year's experience, please notify Miss Louise Sullivan.

Spring registration

is 2807 students. That is 500 more than were enrolled for the spring semester last year. We have more classes (165) than we did during the fall semester (157).

The educational background

of foreign students can now be evaluated in terms of how they will perform in schools in the United States with a fair degree of accuracy. Miss Marjorie C. Johnston of the Office of Education reports that 91 percent of 249 students placed at the level recommended by evaluators in OE and admissions officers in the colleges were successful in their studies; 87 percent of 133 students placed at a higher level did satisfactory work; and 83 percent of the 12 students who received lower placement than recommended succeeded in their studies; and 60 of 80 students were qualified for admission as special students. Inadequate English, insufficient effort, poor academic preparation, and excessive absences appear to be the most frequent causes of failure.

AMONG OURSELVES

W. E. Deming tells us that on a recent visit to Japan -- his fifth since the end of World War II -- he observed remarkable increases in industrial output through improved use of statistical methods. Dr. Deming spent several days in Japan, his last official stop on a trip that had taken him around the world with assignments in Paris, Geneva, Athens, Delhi, Calcutta, Rangoon, and Bangkok. He represented the Bureau of the Budget, the American Society for Testing Materials, the American Standards Association, and the American Statistical Association. In India he attended the International Statistical Institute, represented the United States on the UN sub-commission on statistical sampling.

James O. Howard has resigned as head of information for OFAR to accept the post of agricultural attache to the American Embassy in Portugal.

H. C. Thom is serving as visiting professor of statistics at Cornell during the spring semester.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. L. Gordon".

Director

